

SPORTS

Taming Boston

15 years after she started running, Lori Robertson does prestigious marathon

BY JIM THOMAS

Lori Robertson was happy to complete last month's Boston Marathon.

"Happy to be alive," she said. "I would have had to be dead not to finish."

The 49-year-old Stouffville resident ran the gruelling 42.195-kilometre course in 4 hours and 7 minutes.

Close friend Leona Newlands of Stouffville covered the distance in 4 hours and 2 minutes.

While living in Scarborough that Robertson joined the neighbourhood YWCA and began taking the sport seriously.

Little did she know that, 15 years later, she would participate in North America's most prestigious marathon.

But first, she had to qualify.

QUICK QUALIFIER

And qualify she did, outrunning her best-ever mark at a marathon in Mississauga.

"I completed the distance in four hours flat," she said. "It was very rewarding." She registered for the Boston classic in September along with 24,000 other entrants.

"Totally amazing" was the way Robertson described the support she and other runners received along the route.

Although taxed to the limit, never once did she think of quitting.

MICROCHIP IN SHOE

Throughout the run, Robertson's 19-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, kept track of her mother's progress on a home computer, via a microchip attached to one of her mother's shoes.

Robertson also has two sons, Ben, 24 and Andrew, 22. Both of whom, she said, were also proud of her feat.

Robertson credits Stouffville's Robin Steckley, also a Boston marathoner, with sparking her interest. The accounting staff at Markham Stouffville Hospital, where she's employed in payroll, were also incredibly supportive, she said.

For her achievement, Robertson received an engraved medal.

While the accomplishment is a high-



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Lori Robertson is back in Stouffville with the medal she received for completing last month's Boston Marathon. She hopes to run the big race again.

light of her life, it's not a be-all, end-all as far as running's concerned.

The five-foot, six-inch, 130-pound marathoner has no intentions of resting on her laurels.

Five mornings a week, she takes to the back roads of Uxbridge Township including trails through the Durham

Forest.

"Seeing herds of grazing deer and watching the sun come up is beautiful," she says. "For me, it's the best time of the day."

But if Robertson has her way, she would like to take part in another Boston Marathon.

Rough starts for Mennos

The Stouffville Mennos launched their Oshawa City and District Fastball League season on a rough note, suffering losses in their first two outings.

Playing host to the Oshawa Ravens last Thursday, the Mennos could muster just one hit off the pitching tandem of Blair McBratney and Andy Skelton in a 10-0 loss.

Rich Burkholder accounted for the lone Mennos hit in the fourth inning that also saw Shawn Boadway and Scott Eyre draw walks to load the bases with one out. But a potential rally fizzled when Byron Baranieski popped up and Greg Delgarno struck out.

Baranieski went four innings and surrendered four runs to take the loss.

Bob McCulley went 1 1/3 innings and gave up five runs and Delgarno, who was on loan from the Scarborough juniors, got the final two outs.

The Mennos committed two errors that contributed to large Ravens' rallies in the

fourth and sixth innings.

The loss came one night after the Mennos' season-opening 9-3 road loss to Aurora.

Baranieski was roughed up after surrendering five runs in three innings of work and took the loss.

The Mennos committed four errors.

The Mennos took a 2-0 lead after their half of the first inning generated by singles from Boadway, Burkholder and Rob Clayton and walks issued to Dale Boadway and Delgarno.

They had the bases loaded but failed to capitalize on the situation.

Former Canadian national team pitcher Todd Martin pitched four innings for Aurora and gave up just one run to earn the win.

The Mennos, who played in Toronto last night, return to Memorial Park tonight to host the Oshawa Juniors at 8:30 p.m.

For more on the Oshawa City and District Fastball League, go to ocdfl.ca

Flower sales help Clippers take European hockey trip

The Stouffville bantam A Clippers minor hockey team is headed for Austria and the Czech Republic next season.

But to do so, they will require a little financial assistance. The Clippers are receiving help from Canadian Tire of Stouffville.

On May 26 and 27, the store will donate profits generated from the sale of several types of annuals. Impatiens, marigolds, begonias and petunias, in assorted colors, will be available, as well as other gardening supplies.

Each flat of flowers will be sold for \$15. Fresh truckloads will arrive on both days to ensure healthy plants in many colours.

If you're interested in purchasing flowers, e-mail Pam Brodie at pbrodie@sympatico.ca, so the club can ensure enough plants are on hand.

Interested participants can pre-pay and avoid lineups at the cashier.

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"Audition appointments for your live audition for the York Region Celebration of the Arts/Talent Search will be held at the City Playhouse in Vaughan on May 19th.

Booking your appointment is mandatory in order to best accommodate the stage for each discipline. Book an appointment by calling **905-713-1040** or email MarqueeProductions@sympatico.ca

Please bring your application, \$20 entry fee, required written summary and photo to complete your entry. Space is limited.



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